

VILENESS IS AN AS OF EXPERIENCE

Dear Aspirant:

Nothing is known as itself to anything but itself, as is or should be quite obvious in the course of the present analysis. In literal fact everything other than self is known to the self as it has to be known through the experiences of this self and hence it never is known as what it is to its own selfhood of thingship. Consequently a knower is always present in any knowing and when something is realized as vile or as worthless or as destructive there is the presence necessarily of factors capable of participation in a vile experience and it is obvious that since any experience is a sharing the vileness must be in the knower to some degree for the knowing to be possible. Because the knower is functioning in and of himself and has a reality directly and primarily in the implicit self-touch and because the known or that which is supposed to be vile in its own special selfhood is secondarily or derivatively real the vileness as whatever it is that is experienced is much more real in the knower where more reality is brought to focus in this experience than in the known. Thus while in experience there is always the contribution to each self of essential elements by other self these essential elements in every other are exactly as they are sharpened into experience or knowing by the self in and of itself.

The difficulty is the persisting insistence on anchoring reality in things rather than in doing or being and in finding stability or constant and dependable reality outside self and therefore trying to change self for its participation in the better reality, and as an especially dangerous form of this tendency we have the occultism in which the world is at once real but alien and thus necessarily vile in every respect and to be escaped by a continual self-denial.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit,

MARC EDMUND JONES

Stanwood, Washington 98292, August 19, 2019

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THE AFFIRMATIONS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT

Health: I know within myself the law of God and good.

Prosperity: There is profit in every channel of my effort.

Happiness: In all my joys I seek an added richness.

SELF-DENIAL IS SELF-ANNIHILATION

Dear Aspirant:

Probably nothing is as intemperate as a temperance of an ulterior sort and nothing is self-annihilating as the self-denial when some pleasure of a now is refused the being in the hope of some future blessing of one sort or another. Superficially this will seem little short of complete hedonism and a senseless catering to the passions or the thoughtless impulses of the moment. Actually it is a call for an enlargement of being at the one point where enlargement is possible or where there is chance and hence choice or freedom. It is in the here and now of personal experience. Temperance is self-contradictory unless it is real in and of itself. Many a rascal has self-control and can stay sober for a heightened enjoyment of sadistic self-indulgence, and many a pious fool has soured all life with an acid self-denial and at the end lost all capacity for enjoyment other than a bestial joying in his self-righteous dispensation of human misery. As Jesus pointed out many centuries ago the men who parade their virtue of negation are well and completely rewarded in the notoriety supporting their ego.

Self-denial is thus revealed as self-affirmation in that negation of self-responsibility that in common form is mental upset or illusion and even outright insanity. It makes little difference that the seeker is reaching out to a mirage of occult promised lands and in some other reality has a stability to which to cling. He had to make his touch himself and what there was real in that other he had to substantiate himself sooner or later and if he was led to attempt this by a denial of himself and his powers he literally was sawing himself off the limb of his hopes. Temperance is never affirming weakness by act or word but is living strength or choosing immediate fullness of life.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit,

MARC EDMUND JONES

Stanwood, Washington 98292, August 26, 2019

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THE AFFIRMATIONS FOR LAST WEEK AND THIS

Health: I know within myself the law of God and good.

Prosperity: There is profit in every channel of my effort.

Happiness: In all my joys I seek an added richness.

REALITY HAS IMMEDIATE REWARD

Dear Aspirant:

Success in life whether temporal or spiritual will never come to those individuals who are utterly feckless or are without care for the lessons from the past and without concern for the promise that the future might bring to pass, and in consequence the emphasis of the present as against the past and future is not a disregard of cycles of cause and effect but rather a realization that the point of control is in the here and now and that control at root is a refinement of immediate or here-and-now sensitiveness. The destructiveness of the self-denial in which virtue is negative is ultimately in the tremendous interjection of dead tradition and unexperienced theory into the present moment since any ego-sustainment gained in the parading of a lack must become the strengthening of selfhood-minus. The more the self has if the having is of notness, the more there is less in the reality.

Living tradition has superlative value because there can be a new and enlarged recreation of experience when the emphasis is of the past as present and of immediate consequence, but reverse this and affirm a dead tradition and promptly the present is asked to give testimony to the past and to subordinate what might be to what already is a been and what moreover in its beenness is not to be disturbed. The living potentiality or the future in its aspect of imminence or living a present contribution to experience is again an enriching element and a contribution to individuality, but a future that is imminent only in the expectation of some other individual by whom it has been fixed and with no continued vicarious experience with it or actual personal test of its worth in any way possible is a not to which the self can hardly give reality by any real act of the self in and of itself.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit,

MARC EDMUND JONES

Stanwood, Washington 98292, September 2, 2019

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THE AFFIRMATIONS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT

Health: I hearken to the voice of higher values.

Prosperity: My wealth is manifest within myself.

Happiness: My soul is charged with vibrant joy from everywhere.

THE REAL IS WITHOUT MORALITY

Dear Aspirant:

One of the consequences of putting reality in things and not in doing or in doers or knowers is the eternal problem of the evil in the world. Seekers will ask how in the God-created universe it is possible for evil to exist. And then philosophers get to work and in a little while there are a myriad theories from the idea that evil can be explained as misplaced good to the concept of a dualistic world and the struggle between forces of good and evil. All such thinking must be seen as silly at the best and vicious at the worst because it gives continuing sanction to an idea of reality apart from act and doing and being and experiencing. Evil is an as whereby an experiencing entity is self-reducing in its act of being, and good by the same token is an as whereby individuality continues to be in itself through its expanding or continually re-experiencing selfhood. The words are merely an indication of the emphasis in the basic attitude or asness of self and are in no wise identification of any reality apart from this.

The real is without morality because the real is no more than a term for indicating the state in which some one or other manner of asness is given dominance in the given life or in the special situation of any sort or dimension to which reference in experience can be made. If the real is to designate whether self is served in the condition of things called good or is betrayed in the complex called evil it is obvious that reality is neither good nor evil since then to talk morality intelligently another word would have to be enlisted to refer to reality and the word reality would become useless at once since the indication would be of something not necessarily real in a basic sense but necessarily wraithlike as it proves to be in so much occultism.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit,

MARC EDMUND JONES

Stanwood, Washington 98292, September 9, 2019

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THE AFFIRMATIONS FOR LAST WEEK AND THIS

Health: I hearken to the voice of higher values.

Prosperity: My wealth is manifest within myself.

Happiness: My soul is charged with vibrant joy from everywhere.